THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the reports received, 149 applications were received including 9 from Bhilwara. Of these, 49 applications have been accepted, 3 applications have been withdrawn and 6 applications have been rejected. The balance 91 applications, which includes all the 9 applications from Bhilwara, are under various stages of verification, calling for documentary evidence, personal hearing, passing of orders, etc.

(c) Of the 6 applications rejected, 2 were rejected for the reason that the applications were submitted beyond the due date statutorily prescribed. The balance 4 applications were rejected for the reason that on verification it was found that the original value of investment in plant and machinery installed in the processing factory exceeded the eligibility limit of Rs. 3 crore. 49 applications have been accepted since the applicants were found to be fulfilling all the conditions prescribed under the compounded levy scheme.

Release of telephone connections in Mainpuri District (UP)

†*325. SHRI R.N. ARYA:
SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to provide telephone connections to villages expeditiously;

(b) whether Government have any plan to provide telephones during this year to the applicants from village Anjani, District Mainpuri (UP);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of persons from this village who have submitted their applications in this regard; and

(e) by when telephone connections would be provided in this village?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) It is planned to provide 16.85 lakh Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) in rural areas during 2001-2002. Out of this, 13.52 lakh lines will be on land lines and 3.33 lakh lines on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In UP (East) Circle, the plan is for providing 68,000 connections on land lines and 70,000 connections on WLL in the rural areas.

23 persons have applied for telephone connections in village Anjani, district Mainpuri. This village is at a distance of about 2 kms. from Shringarpur, located in district Mainpuri. Village Anjani falls in the local area of Shringarpur, where a 256P CDOT telephone exchange has been planned during the year 2001-2002. Telephone connections to the wait listed applicants of village Anjani will be provided by March, 2002.

Goa Airport

*326. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the plan to make the airport at Goa usable for 24 hours; and

(b) by when it is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Goa Airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence and is controlled by the Indian Navy. Airports Authority of India (AAI) only maintains a Civil Enclave at Goa. As Goa is an important tourist destination of the country, it was decided to have this airport available for civil / charter flights round the clock. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Airports Authority of India and Indian Navy on 9.3.2000, to make this airport operational for 24 hours. Indian Navy was to procure all equipment for this purpose and AAI was to transfer Rs. 205.72 lakhs to Indian Navy on request for this purpose. Indian Navy was also required to provide necessary manpower for 24 hours operation. AAI has already budgeted the amount. Indian Navy is obtaining necessary approvals for 110 additional staff required for this purpose.

Presently Goa airport operates from sunrise to sunset, except the slot from 0830 hours to 1300 hours on Mondays to Fridays which is reserved for military flying. In addition, chartered tourist flights were also permitted to operate between 0830 hours to 1300 hours on Fridays during the tourist season.